



CVP Update



New Vaccines Available

There are several new vaccine changes occurring in a short amount of time. As always, please continue to read our communications so that you stay current with these changes as they are made available!

- PCV20 is available for order through CVP for all children 18 and younger as of 9/1/23. Please view [PCV20 Now Available 9 1 23](#) for further details.
- The RSV vaccine nirsevimab (trade name Beyfortus) is recommended for all infants younger than 8 months and born during, or entering, their first RSV season - see [Nirsevimab Now Available through the CT Vaccine Program CVP 10-2-23](#) for more information.
- Updated COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for everyone 6 months and older. Please view the recent communications sent from DPH "[COVID-19 Vaccine Now Available through the CT Vaccine Program CVP](#)" and "[ACIP COVID-19 Vaccine Updates](#)" for further details.

In this Issue:

New Vaccines Available	P.1
Prepare for Flu Season	P.1
CT WiZ Portal in Spanish	P.1
R/R Reports Reminder	P.1
Immunization Champion	P.2
VPDs	P.2
Flu Conference	P.2
Employee Spotlight	P.3
Data Quality Corner	P.3
CT WiZ is 30 years!	P.3



Prepare for Flu Season!

It's time to vaccinate against influenza! As we begin the 2023-2024 flu season, CVP providers should make a strong recommendation and begin tailored messaging to children and parents. September and October are good times to

get a flu vaccine. Young children who need two doses should get the first dose as soon as possible. As a reminder influenza vaccine is required for children attending day care/preschool 6 through 59 months of age. These children must have an annual dose of flu vaccine administered between August 1st-December 31st. As in previous years, flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same visit.

View [CDC's Seasonal Flu Partner Resources Center](#) for communication resources for the flu season, including CDC's new "Wild to Mild" campaign that visually shows how flu vaccination can 'tame' flu's symptoms from being 'wild' to 'mild' in people who get vaccinated but still get sick.

To view weekly influenza vaccination data you can visit [CDC's FluVaxView](#). To view influenza surveillance you can visit [CDC's Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report](#) for national data and [Connecticut Department of Public Health's Weekly Influenza Update](#) for state data.

Follow us on Social Media!

- Facebook:** [@CTPublicHealth](#)
- Twitter:** [@CTDPH](#)
- Instagram:** [@ctdph](#)
- Contact Us: **860-509-7929** or click [here](#)
- For a current list of IAP Contacts

CT WiZ Public Portal is now in Spanish!



The [CT WiZ Public Portal](#) is now available in Spanish. Please promote this to your Spanish-speaking patients! To switch from English to Spanish, users can click the "Select Language" drop down at the top of the screen.

Instructions for using the public portal in Spanish can be found [here](#).

Note: Vaccine records will still download in English.

Reminder!

For CVP clinics, DPH started running **Monthly Reminder/Recall Reports** for clinics to access in CT WiZ. Each month, *when the reports are available*, DPH emails the CVP clinics an instructional letter on how to view them in CT WiZ and follow up on patients not up to date by 7 & 19 months of age.

Please look out for your email (around the 1st of each month) to **view your report in CT WiZ**.



Photo of Kathy Kudish, DPH Immunization Manager and DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani presenting the award to Sasa Harriott.

2023 Connecticut Immunization Champion

In September, the Connecticut Department of Public Health honored **Sasa Harriott of Harriott Home Health Services as Connecticut's 2023 Immunization Champion** for her exemplary work bringing COVID-19, mpox, and influenza vaccines to the residents of Hartford, with a special focus on the unstably housed and unhoused populations.

The award is given by the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) and recognizes individuals working at the local level who are going above and beyond to foster immunizations in their community and exemplify the following criteria: leadership, collaboration, innovation, and advocacy.

A ceremony was held with several state leaders honoring Sasa including DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani, Governor Ned Lamont and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin.

Conditions Reportable to the Immunization Program

Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) is a rare, serious paralytic disease that mainly affects children. As fall approaches, seasonal increases in the circulation of respiratory pathogens, including enteroviruses, is to be expected. Enterovirus D-68 (EV-D68) is believed to be the main enterovirus responsible for the increases in acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) cases observed during 2014, 2016, and 2018. Clinicians like you play a critical role in recognizing AFM symptoms and assessing patients quickly. A single case of polio, identified in the United States in July 2022, reinforces the importance of collecting whole stool samples from patients with suspected AFM to rule out polio. To learn more about AFM, specimens to collect, and how to report patients under investigation, visit the CDC AFM websites.

For more information

AFM

- AFM: <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/index.html>
- AFM physician consult and support portal: <https://wearesrna.org/living-with-myelitis/resources/afm-physician-support-portal/>
- For clinicians and health departments: <https://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/clinicians-health-departments.html>

POLIO

- Poliomyelitis: For Healthcare Providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/polio/us/hcp/index.html>
- Polio vaccine recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/polio/hcp/index.html>
- Resources for polio: <https://www.cdc.gov/polio/us/index.html>

2023 Annual Influenza Update Conference

The American Lung Association and Connecticut Immunization Coalition conducted the Annual Influenza Update Conference on September 14th in Branford, CT. This one-day conference brought in around 150 health professionals, health educators and mass immunizers to learn about latest in influenza, updated vaccination recommendations, vaccination communication strategies in the digital world, the burden of influenza among older adults and more. The event was a great success and provided a lot of resources for attendees to utilize this upcoming virus season and beyond.



Employee Spotlight

Kaitlin Roberts, Health Program Associate



Kaitlin has been a Health Program Associate with the Immunization Program since 2020. She worked previously as a Project Director for a substance use prevention program. Kaitlin received both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health degrees from the University of Connecticut – go Huskies! Kaitlin’s primary role is the coordination and oversight of our contracts, including the [Immunization Action Plan](#). She also helps with updates to the Immunization Program’s webpage, orders [educational materials](#) for providers and drafts the CVP newsletter. Kaitlin and her husband welcomed their first child in March! She returned from a maternity leave in August and is adjusting to life as a working mom.



Data Quality Corner

On September 11, the FDA **deauthorized the use of the previous versions of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines** (Pfizer and Moderna). Read the full communication on [our website](#).

- All COVID-19 vaccines received through the CoVP should be removed from your vaccine supply and reported to our [helpdesk](#) as wasted. In addition, doses will need to be adjusted out of your inventory in CT WiZ.

On September 12, the ACIP voted to **recommend the updated COVID-19 vaccine to everyone ages 6 months and older**. Read the full communication on [our website](#).

- For the memo on the availability and ordering of COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 18 and younger through the CVP see [our website](#).
- **Please ensure your EHRs are updated with the most recent CVX and NDC codes, and ensure your staff are aware of the appropriate selection choices when recording a vaccination in your EHR.**
 - See: [IIS Data Code Sets | CDC](#) (see all Fall 2023 COVID-19 Vaccine Codes)
 - See: [Vaccines Supplied by CVP](#) (for vaccines supplied by CVP)
- **Data Entry Guidance for all updated COVID-19 Vaccines:**
 - COVID-19 (MOD) 6m-11y (CVX 311)
 - COVID-19 (MOD) 12+yrs (CVX 312)
 - COVID-19 (PFR) 5-11yrs (CVX 310)
 - COVID-19 (PFR) 12+yrs (CVX 309)
 - COVID-19 (NVX) 12+yrs (CVX 313)



CT WiZ celebrates 30 years!

The Department of Public Health Immunization Program operates the Immunization Information System (IIS) called CT WiZ. CT WiZ meets national IIS standards for day-to-day operations and supported providers and the public during the pandemic.

- **1993** – as a citywide pilot registry we started to capture Hartford residents' records.
- 1994 – State law implemented for the immunization registry.
- 1995 – we started to capture Medicaid enrolled members’ records.
- 1998 – we became a statewide childhood registry
- 2018 – all data from our previous CIRTSS was migrated to the CT WiZ platform.
- 2021 – CT WiZ Public Portal went live!
- 2022 – State law updated requiring all ages for all vaccines making CT WiZ a **lifespan IIS**.
- **2023** – 30 years since we started capturing immunization records!

Through collaborations with providers, electronic health record (EHR) vendors, state and local agencies, contractors, and our IIS vendor, the CT WiZ has become a valuable tool for public health, providers, and the public. See [the value of an IIS](#).

We want to acknowledge that CT WiZ captured all these records because of people like you who report them and ensure they are accurate and complete. Most importantly, we want to remember that these records are people who now have consolidated records available when you or they need them. **THANK YOU** for contributing to the success of 30 years of CT WiZ! To continue utilizing CT WiZ, please visit our webpage for support: [CT WiZ Training](#)